

YE OUGHT RATHER TO FORGIVE HIM

2 Cor. 2:1-11

1 Cor 5:5 *To deliver such an one unto Satan ...*

1. Leader
2. Repulsive and dreadful situation
3. Majority supported Paul
4. Man came to place of repentance

2 Cor 2:1 Paul painfully thought through and prayed about situation--arrived at conclusion with himself--not come with another painful & distressing visit.

2 Cor 2:2 *Sorry:* cause you grief; make you sad

Kruse: Paul caused pain to both the offender and the Corinthian congregation by his demand for disciplinary action. There can be no more joy in his relationship with the Corinthians until the offender has been brought to repentance and restored to fellowship. Then the one whom Paul has pained will make him glad.

2 Cor 2:3 *I wrote this same unto you:* very severe and confrontational letter he wrote to them *having confidence* ... your joy was so connected to my joy that you would not appreciate it if I came to you with an ax to grind.

2 Cor 2:4 *For out of much affliction* ... broke my heart to have to write that letter to you

not that ye should be grieved, motive was not to hurt you

but that ye might know be made aware of

the love agape which I have more abundantly frequently, plentiful

unto you demonstrate to you how much I love you

2 Cor 2:5 If there is a person in your church who has caused you great distress and sorrow the issue is not that he has grieved me

but in part: In a very real and measurable way

that I may not overcharge you al lay too heavy of a load on you

2 Cor 2:6 *Sufficient:* Ample, adequate, satisfactory...You've accomplished your purpose in all this.

... inflicted of many: meted out by majority of the church.

2 Cor 2:7 *Ye ought rather to forgive him:* absolve this man, pardon, excuse, remit

comfort,; come up alongside him and give solace and assistance in getting life back in order. Give him a sense of hope.

... swallowed up overwhelmed with excessive sorrow and despair.

overmuch: more than can handle.

sorrow: grief...grief stricken

Christians are great at shooting their wounded.

You will be guilty of overkill.

2 Cor 2:8 *Confirm:* establish certainty or validity of

Paul is saying to them, *Make your love and acceptance of this man a matter of certainty.*

Make it a Public announcement

Don't just go through the motions

Process

1. Administer discipline
2. Repentance
3. Forgiveness
4. Comfort
5. Confirmation

I Cor 2:9 ...*proof of you* To see whether or not you have learned principle of obedience in all things. Excellent testing ground

2 Cor 2:10 *for your sakes forgave I it* Life message.. testimony

C. S. Lewis: *Everyone says forgiveness is a lovely idea, until they have something to forgive.*

...*in the person of Christ*; because of what Christ has done for me.

Wiersbe: *They should confirm their love to the forgiven brother for the Lord's sake (2 Cor. 2:9-10). The problem was ...between a sinning brother and a grieving Saviour.*

Barnes: ... Paul acted by his authority, and felt that he was doing that which Christ would approve.

Mac: *Paul eagerly forgave the one who had offended him because Christ, in whose presence he constantly lived, had fully forgiven him.*

2 Cor 2:11 *advantage*: t overreach; defraud , make a gain of us.

devices: purposes, perceptions, plans , techniques, schemes, wiles

not ignorant: not blind; unintelligent

Satan knows he has little success when attacks from without church...success comes when attack from within

Mac: ... *An unforgiving spirit plays right into the devil's hands and gives him the leverage he needs to split a church apart.*

Wagner: *A congregation full of bickering and backbiting also becomes very self-centered. So much energy is spent on trying to hold the internal pieces together and to survive that little attention is given to winning the lost. Even if some were won, they would not find there an atmosphere for healthy Christian growth and would likely shop around for a more satisfying church home. Worse yet, they might end up being "spiritual orphans.*

So What?

Relationships with people: discipline, encouragement.

Process: Discipline...repentance...forgiveness...comfort...confirm love

We forgive by faith letting Christ give us the power...as a testimony of God's grace.

Don't be ignorant of Satan's strategies and techniques... He feeds on unforgiveness and dissension